



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



POW MIA RECOGNITION DAY

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, as "POW/MIA Recognition Day," calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

"While we are grateful to all of those who have served our nation, the 19th of September is a day designated to remember and recognize the sacrifices endured by those members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action," the Governor said. "The state of South Dakota continues to support efforts to account for every service member classified as Missing in Action."

The Governor encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time on Sept. 19 to honor the POW/MIAs who fought to protect our freedoms and lost theirs, as well as remember those engaged in today's struggle to guard our way of life for future generations.

"In their service to our country, former prisoners of war and those missing in action, have sacrificed mightily to maintain the promise of liberty that we hold dear," added Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota

Department of Veterans Affairs. "Sept. 19 affords us a great opportunity to reaffirm our vow to never forget the courage of our nation's staunchest defenders – our former POWs and MIAs."

Inside this issue:

Regional Site for Veterans Day	2
Inside KeloLand to feature SDDVA	2
SDCMF Conference	3
Veterans Council	3
SD Guard Receives National Recognition	4-5
SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group	6
Watertown Veterans Appreciation Day	6
Homeless Consortium	6
Upcoming Events	7



Heroes Among Us—showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



STOUX FALLS SELECTED AS REGIONAL SITE FOR VETERANS DAY 2014

The Veterans Day National Committee has designated the city of Sioux Falls as a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day 2014.

The Veterans Day National Committee selects a number of regional sites for Veterans Day observances throughout the country. From parades and ceremonies, to military exhibits and tributes to distinguished veterans, these events serve as models for other communities to follow in planning their Veterans Day observances.

The Veterans Day National Committee uses the following criteria to determine whether a Veterans Day observance warrants Regional Site status.

1. Is the event dedicated solely to honoring the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces?
 2. Is the event supported by a veterans service organization?
 3. Is the event supported by the city, county, town or municipal authorities?
 4. Does the event incorporate schools, universities, and other community organizations?
- The regional site event organizers for Sioux Falls is Amy Meert.



ZIMMERMAN POLLARD ON INSIDE KELOLAND

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman and Deputy Secretary Pollard will be featured on "Inside KELOLAND, on Sunday evening, September 14, at 10:30 pm.

During their segment of "Inside KELOLAND," Zimmerman and Pollard highlighted the success of Operation RAV and talked about the progress that has been accomplished at the State Veterans Home.



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN SDCMF CONFERENCE

Representatives of an array of private organizations state agencies, and military officials gathered in Sioux Falls this week for the South Dakota Coalition for Military Families symposium.

The symposium is designed to examine the network of services for military members, veterans and their families, and ways to make those services more readily available.

Topics included healthcare, human resources, resilience, youth, family, higher education, transitioning, veterans court, sexual assault, ESGR, and state and federal benefits.

Lt. Governor Matt Michels, SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard provided opening comments for the event.

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Pollard served on the development committee for the symposium and served as a moderator for one of the panels. SDDVA Education staff Shane Olivier and Ryan Fowler briefed participants on education benefits, apprenticeship program, and the on-the-job-training program.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman shared his concerns in paring back programs. "I don't have people out of the country yet, and already they're cutting services. It's scary," South Dakota Secretary of Veterans Affairs Larry Zimmerman said.



SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

The South Dakota Veterans Council will meet on Wednesday, September 17, at the DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls at 10:00 am.

The focus of the meeting is legislative related — lobbyists, Department legislation, organization legislation, legislative roundtables, and the 2015 Legislative 101 Breakfast.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman will be providing a Department and RAV Update.



SD GUARD BATTALION RECEIVES NATIONAL TRAINING, READINESS AWARD

The National Guard Association of the United States awarded the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion the Major General Milton A. Reckord Trophy during the 136th General Conference in Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 25. The Milton A. Reckord Trophy is awarded to the outstanding battalion in each of the Army areas determined to have the highest level of training and readiness.

"This is confirmation of the outstanding work the soldiers of the battalion have been doing every day," said Lt. Col. David Dailey, 153rd battalion commander. "It is the national level 'pat on the back' for those that are getting it done at all levels within the organization."

In order to be nominated for the Reckord Trophy, battalion's must demonstrate superior performance in the areas of personnel strength, retention, duty MOS qualification, individual and crew served weapons qualification, the Army Physical Fitness Test, drill weekend attendance and annual training attendance.

"Striving for such an award creates internal competition between the companies that drives their excellence," said Dailey. "No one wants to be the unit that didn't achieve the standard, and with that it's also building battalion team cohesion because we need every unit to earn the award."

Nominated battalions must also have an annual training record rating of excellent or outstanding, with at least two organic or attached units that meet superior unit award criteria.

"Six of our seven units exceeded the requirements for the Superior Unit Award two years in a row," said Lt. Col. Patrick Pardy, battalion commander from 2011-2013. "The battalion was the runner-up for the Reckord Award last year and this year they were able to bring it home."

The Huron-based 153rd provides mission command and supervision for seven units with more than 830 soldiers in 12 communities throughout South Dakota.

While the recognition is well deserved and appreciated by the soldiers, both the former and the current commander agree the training and readiness is much more important than trophies and awards.

Units under the 153rd's command include: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Huron; Forward Support Company, Parkston and Huron; 842nd Engineer Company, Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis; 211th Engineer Company (SAPPER), Madison and De Smet; 155th Engineer Company, Rapid City and Wagner; 200th Engineer Company, Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge; and the 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), Huron.

The award is named after Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord, a veteran of World War I and World War II, former commander of the 29th Infantry Division and former adjutant general of Maryland.



SD NAMED MOST OUTSTANDING FLYING UNIT IN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing was presented the Spaatz Trophy at the 2014 National Guard Association of the United States conference in Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 25. The Spaatz Trophy is presented to the most outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. This is the fourth time the 114th Fighter Wing has won the prestigious award; the last time was in 1988.

Selection is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises.

Throughout 2013, the 114th Fighter Wing deployed 220 airmen to six countries providing Aerospace Expeditionary Forces to support global operations. Training and operational deployments included Red Flag, Silver Flag, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 114th Fighter Wing participated in a joint naval threat exercise with the Naval Air Warfare Center in California and New Mexico, as well as Jaded Strike Exercise working with Special Operations Forces in Arizona. More than 75 percent of current unit members have



actively supported deployed overseas contingency operations since 9/11.

This past year also saw the 114th Fighter Wing support a deployed Aerospace Control Alert mission assuring 24/7 homeland defense alert protection with aircraft and personnel.

The 114th Fighter Wing was evaluated by the Air Force during this period as well. The unit received an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Inspection and the Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment, and the pilots received a Standardization/Evaluation inspection.

"What our airmen accomplished this last year is truly remarkable, as 2013 may go down as one of the most challenging years in unit history," said Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "Three training deployments, overseas operational deployments with airmen in six different countries, and three major inspections from the Air Force in one year is an amazing effort from all the 'Fighting Lobos'. And it occurred in a year where we experienced a government shutdown and budget shortfalls that forced furloughs of our full-time force."

Walz said the unselfish contributions of the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing embody the 'service before self' core value.

"It's appropriate that their outstanding accomplishments are acknowledged by winning the highest award given to an Air National Guard unit," said Walz. "I'm extremely proud to be their commander."

SDSU VETERANS COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP

The SDSU Veterans Affairs Office is sponsoring a Veterans Combat Support Group. The group will be led by staff from the Sioux Falls Vets Center.

This support group is open to all veterans in the community and do not have to be SDSU affiliated to attend this group.

The Support Group will meet from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm at the Veterans Resource Center in Student Union 065 in Brookings on the following dates: September 16, October 7, November 4, and December 2.

Note — There is no charge for parking in the lot east of the Union after 5:00 pm.



Veterans Combat Support Group

Tuesday, September 16th & Thursday, October 7th
6-8pm

The Veterans Combat Support Group meets in the Veterans Resource Center in the lower level of the SDSU student union. The group is open to all Combat Veterans on campus and in the community. Led by Sioux Falls Vets Center.

Sponsored by Veterans Affairs Office

WATERTOWN TO HOST VETERANS/FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY

Community leaders in Watertown will be hosting a Veterans/First Responders Appreciation Day on Tuesday, September 16. The event will be held at the Stokes-Thomas War Memorial on Lake Kampeska.

The event includes a picnic and program at 5:00 PM to honor those who defend the Constitution.

There will also be a short program recognizing area veterans and first responders, as well as the area businesses who support them.

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman will be the keynote speaker.

HOMELESS CONSORTIUM MEETS

Continuum of Care was the focus of the Housing for Homeless Consortium meeting this week in Pierre.

Topics centered around the ongoing help for the homeless, federal monies available, the Homeless Count, HMIS data standards, chronic homelessness and other persons in permanent supportive housing.

The ten-year plan for ending homelessness was also reviewed and discussed in detail.

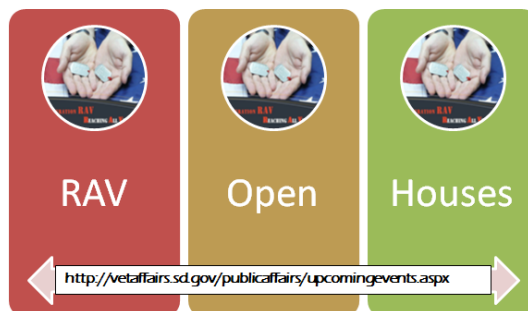
SDDVA's John Fette represented the Department of Veterans Affairs at this Consortium.



Upcoming Events

2014

Sept. 14—Veterans Trap Shoot Competition—Spearfish—11:30 am
 Sept. 16—Stand Down—Bear Soldier City Auditorium—McLaughlin—10:00 am
 Sept. 16—Sea of Goodwill Outreach—Watertown
 Sept. 16—Watertown Veterans'/First Responders Appreciation Day—Lake Kampeska—5:00 pm
 Sept. 16—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm
 Sept. 17—Stand Down—Ft. Manuel Hall—Kenel—9:00 am
 Sept. 17—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
 Sept. 17 Stand Down—Wakpala Community Center—1:00 pm
 Sept. 18—SFVAHCS Veterans Town Hall—SFVA Medical Center—4th Floor Auditorium—3:00 pm
 Sept. 18—Stand Down—Rock Creek Community Center—Bull Head—9:00 am
 Sept. 18—Stand Down—Running Antelope American Legion Post—1:00 pm
 Sept. 18—SFVAHCS Director's Town Hall Meeting—3:00 pm
 Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) 9:00 am
 Sept. 19—National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony—Sioux Falls Memorial Park—6:30 pm
 Sept. 22—VABHHC Stand Down—Stand Down—Pine Ridge—10:00 am
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am
 Oct. 7—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm
 Oct. 17—Women Veterans Conference—Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls
 Nov. 4—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm
 Dec. 2—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://mva.sd.gov>
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
 Soldiers and Sailors Building
 425 E Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501
 Phone: 605-773-8242
 E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

